

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 204222
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SMS-01 /092 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:MCLISSFELT:JC
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
EUR/WE:RPPAGANELLI
EUR/EE:FTUMMINIA
EUR/SOV:JCOLBERT

-----064345 120124Z /64

P R 112341Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: EXPORTS TO USSR AND RECENT ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

-

1. IN COURSE OF TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 10, PRIOR TO RETURN TO FRANCE FOR HOLIDAYS, AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE ASKED ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS OF USG DECISION TO PERMIT EXPORT TO USSR OF KEY ELEMENT IN PRODUCTION PROCESS RELATING TO OIL WELL DRILLING.

2. VEST EXPLAINED GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO EXPORT CONTROLS OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS COMPUTERS AND ITEMS RELATIVE TO PETROLEUM EXPLORATION. HE CITED SECRETARY'S CAREFULLY-PHRASED ASSESSMENT IN RECENT INTERVIEW WHEN LATTER SAID THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 204222

SOVIETS IN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS HAVE LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS AND NOTED THAT ONE MUST CHOOSE CASES WHERE ONE APPLIES SUCH SANCTIONS VERY, VERY CAREFULLY AND IN MEASURED WAY (SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW ON ISSUES AND ANSWERS PROGRAM JULY 23). VEST SAID THAT MEASURES TAKEN TO DATE BY USG HAVE MADE CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT THERE ARE AREAS WHERE WE COULD, IF WE DESIRED, INSTITUTE VERY PAINFUL

TRADE LIMITATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT USG DID NOT INTEND TO CONTINUE ANY KIND OF DETERIORATING SPIRAL; NEVERTHELESS, OPPORTUNITIES ARE KEPT IN MIND.

3. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED, IN APPARENT SYMPATHY AND AGREEMENT WITH REPORTED U.S. DECISION TO PERMIT EXPORT OF WELDING MACHINES BY DRESSER INDUSTRIES OF DALLAS, THAT TENSIONS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS SEEM TO HAVE CALMED DOWN A BIT RECENTLY. VEST AGREED. DE LABOULAYE THEN SPECULATED WHETHER IT IS NOT BETTER TO TAKE STEPS TO HELP SOVIETS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN OIL RESOURCES THUS RELIEVING SOVIET PRESSURE TO OBTAIN OIL ELSEWHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, MIDDLE EAST OR AFRICA. VEST OBSERVED THAT THIS CONSIDERATION WAS NOT MORE INVOLVED THAN ANY OTHER FACTOR IN DRESSER DECISION; IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SAY THAT THIS WAS THE MAJOR FACTOR. IN LARGER SENSE, IT WAS FELT TO BE NOT ADVANTAGEOUS OR EFFECTIVE TO ENGAGE IN TRADE RECRIMINATIONS. VEST SAID THAT IN LONGEST TERM POLICY SENSE, IT IS IN OUR GENERAL INTEREST TO HELP SOVIETS DEVELOP THEIR OWN ENERGY SOURCES WHICH COULD THEN BE SHARED.

4. DE LABOULAYE THEN TURNED TO SITUATION IN ROMANIA, ASKING FOR USG REACTION TO CEAUSESCU'S RECENT CALL FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF COMMUNIST STATES. VEST NOTED THAT CEAUSESCU'S RECENT SPEECH MUST CERTAINLY HAVE IRRITATED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 204222

THE SOVIETS; IMPLICIT IN CEAUSESCU'S ASSERTIONS IS ACCUSATION THAT SOVIET COMMUNIST SYSTEM CANNOT TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN NEEDS. ROMANIANS ARE THUS BEING VERY INDEPENDENT.

5. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED THAT CEAUSESCU'S ACTIONS SEEM TO CONTRADICT SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT BERLIN COMMUNIST MEETING. HE ASKED WHETHER ROMANIANS HAVE MUCH MARGIN FOR MANEUVER. VEST REPLIED THAT THEY ARE ACTING AS IF THEY DID, RECALLING OTHER EVIDENCE OF CEAUSESCU'S INDEPENDENCE WHEN HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS WAS SHORTENED AT HIS INITIATIVE TO ONE.

6. DE LABOULAYE CONCLUDED CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH OBSERVATION THAT IT IS INDEED HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY CEAUSESCU CAN GO SO FAR IN HIS INDEPENDENCE AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, AT THE VERY TIME OF THE VISIT TO EUROPE OF CHAIRMAN HUA. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE204222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MCLISSFELT:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0919
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780872/aaaachzv.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2dd48264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1763147
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPORTS TO USSR AND RECENT ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENTS -
TAGS: EEWT, PFOR, FR
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2dd48264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014